



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Molly Joseph Ward
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March 10, 2015

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st Street, N.E.
Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Docket Number P15-6-000, Dominion Transmission, Inc: Atlantic Coast Pipeline;
FERC Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, Request
for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

Dear Secretary Bose:

This letter responds to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's notice, subject as above and relative to another docket number as well, which appeared in the March 6 Federal Register (Volume 80, Number 44, pages 12163-12166) (hereinafter cited as "Notice"). It appears that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project (Docket P15-6-000) and the other project will be analyzed in a common Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Notice, page 12163, centre column).

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act pertaining to projects and programs affecting Virginia's environment, and responding to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. In addition, DEQ reviews federal consistency determinations and certifications prepared pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, pertaining to projects affecting Virginia's coastal uses and coastal resources, as defined in the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

According to the Notice, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project would consist of the following facilities, listed here insofar as they affect Virginia:

- Natural gas pipelines of 42-inch diameter in Highland, Augusta, Nelson, Buckingham, Cumberland, Prince Edward, Nottoway, Dinwiddie, Brunswick, and Greenville Counties;
- Lateral pipelines of 20-inch diameter in Greenville and Southampton Counties and the Cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake (note: the Notice lists Suffolk and Chesapeake as Counties, but they are Cities);
- Approximately 3.1 miles of 16-inch diameter natural gas lateral pipelines in Brunswick County;
- A compressor station located in Buckingham County.

General locations of these pipelines and alternatives, according to the Notice, are shown in maps in an appendix to the Notice, which is on the FERC web site and not included in the Notice. (Notice, page 12164, centre column).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The roles of DEQ in relation to the proposed project are as follows. First, DEQ's Office of Environmental Impact Review (OEIR) will coordinate Virginia's review of the Draft and Final EISs and comment to FERC on behalf of the Commonwealth. A similar review process will pertain to the Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) (see "Federal Consistency..." heading, below). If the FCD is provided as part of the Final EIS, there can be a common review.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, federal activities affecting Virginia's coastal resources or coastal uses must be consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) (see section 307(c)(1) of the Act and the *Federal Consistency Regulations*, 15 CFR Part 930, subparts A through C). GSA must provide a consistency determination which includes an analysis of the proposed activities in light of the enforceable policies of the VCP (first enclosure) and a commitment to comply with the enforceable policies. In addition, we invite your attention to the advisory policies of the VCP (second enclosure). As indicated above, the FCD may be provided as part of the EIS or separately, depending on FERC's preference. We recommend, in the interests of an effective review, that the FCD be provided with the Final EIS and that at least 60 days be allowed for review, in keeping with the *Federal Consistency Regulations* (see section 930.41(a)). Section 930.39 of the *Federal Consistency Regulations*, and Virginia's *Federal Consistency Information Package* (available at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/EnvironmentalImpactReview/FederalConsistencyReviews.aspx>) present the requirements for the FCD.

PROJECT SCOPING AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

While this Office does not participate in scoping efforts beyond the advice given herein, other agencies are free to provide scoping comments concerning the preparation of the NEPA document. Accordingly, we are sharing our response to the letter with selected state and local Virginia agencies which have responsibilities bearing on the nature and scope of the proposed project. These are likely to include the following (note: starred (*) agencies administer one or more of the enforceable policies of the VCP):

Department of Environmental Quality:

- Office of Environmental Impact Review
- Blue Ridge Regional Office
- Piedmont Regional Office*
- Tidewater Regional Office*
- Valley Regional Office
- Division of Air Program Coordination*
- Division of Water Programs, Office of Stormwater Management*
- Division of Land Protection and Revitalization (formerly Waste Division)

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Department of Health

- Bureau of Shellfish Sanitation*
- Office of Drinking Water

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*

Virginia Marine Resources Commission*

Department of Forestry

Department of Historic Resources

Department of Transportation

Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

Commonwealth Regional Council

Crater Planning District Commission

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Southside Planning District Commission

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Augusta County

Brunswick County

Buckingham County

Cumberland County

Dinwiddie County

Greensville County

Highland County

Nelson County

Nottoway County

Southampton County

City of Chesapeake

City of Suffolk.

In order to ensure an effective coordinated review of the EIS and the FCD, we will require 18 copies of the EA and FCD when they are published. The submission may include 3 hard copies and 15 CDs or 3 hard copies and an electronic copy available for download at a website, file transfer protocol (ftp) site, or the VITAShare file transfer system (<https://vitashare.vita.virginia.gov>). The document should include U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps as part of its information. We recommend, as well, that project details unfamiliar to people outside FERC and the applicants be adequately described.

DATABASE LIST

Below is a list of databases that may assist FERC and the applicants in the preparation of the EIS:

- DEQ Online Database: Virginia Environmental Geographic Information Systems

Information on Permitted Solid Waste Management Facilities, Impaired Waters, Petroleum Releases, Registered Petroleum Facilities, Permitted Discharge (Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits) Facilities, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Sites, Water Monitoring Stations, National Wetlands Inventory

- www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/VEGIS.aspx

- DEQ Virginia Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (GEMS)

Virginia's coastal resource data and maps; coastal laws and policies; facts on coastal resource values; and direct links to collaborating agencies responsible for current data

- <http://128.172.160.131/gems2/>

- DEQ Permit Expert

Helps determine if a DEQ permit is necessary

- www.deq.virginia.gov/permitexpert/

- DHR Data Sharing System

Survey records in the DHR inventory

- www.dhr.virginia.gov/archives/data_sharing_sys.htm

- DCR Natural Heritage Search

Produces lists of resources that occur in specific counties, watersheds or physiographic regions

- www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/dbsearchtool.shtml

- DGIF Fish and Wildlife Information Service

Information about Virginia's Wildlife resources

- <http://vafwis.org/fwis/>

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) Database: Superfund Information Systems

Information on hazardous waste sites, potentially hazardous waste sites and remedial activities across the nation, including sites that are on the National Priorities List (NPL) or being considered for the NPL

- www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm

- EPA RCRAInfo Search

Information on hazardous waste facilities

- www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/rcrainfo/search.html

- EPA Envirofacts Database

EPA Environmental Information, including EPA-Regulated Facilities and Toxics Release Inventory Reports

- www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html

- EPA NEPAassist Database

Facilitates the environmental review process and project planning

- <http://nepaassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/entry.aspx>

If you have questions about the environmental review process or the federal consistency review process, please feel free to call me (telephone (804) 698-42045 or e-mail Bettina.sullivan@deq.virginia.gov) or Julia Wellman (telephone (804) 698-4326 or e-mail julia.wellman@deq.virginia.gov).

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Bettina Sullivan, Program Manager
Environmental Impact Review and Long-Range
Priorities

Attachments

ec: Keith Fowler, DEQ-VRO
Michael Sexton, DEQ-BRRO
Kelley H. West, DEQ-PRO
Kotur S. Narasimhan, DEQ-DAPC
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Bonnie Riedesel, Central Shenandoah PDC
Dennis K. Morris, Crater PDC
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Randy Keaton, Hampton Roads PDC
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cc: Patrick J. Coffield, Augusta County
Charlette T. Woolridge, Brunswick County
Rebecca Carter, Buckingham County
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Kevin Massengill, Dinwiddie County
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Attachment 1

Enforceable Regulatory Programs comprising Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP)

- a. Fisheries Management - The program stresses the conservation and enhancement of finfish and shellfish resources and the promotion of commercial and recreational fisheries to maximize food production and recreational opportunities. This program is administered by the Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (Virginia Code §28.2-200 to §28.2-713) and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) (Virginia Code §29.1-100 to §29.1-570).

The State Tributyltin (TBT) Regulatory Program has been added to the Fisheries Management program. The General Assembly amended the Virginia Pesticide Use and Application Act as it related to the possession, sale, or use of marine antifoulant paints containing TBT. The use of TBT in boat paint constitutes a serious threat to important marine animal species. The TBT program monitors boating activities and boat painting activities to ensure compliance with TBT regulations promulgated pursuant to the amendment. The VMRC, DGIF, and Virginia Department of Agriculture Consumer Services (VDACS) share enforcement responsibilities (Virginia Code §3.2-3904 and 3.2-3935 to §3.2-3937).

- b. Subaqueous Lands Management - The management program for subaqueous lands establishes conditions for granting or denying permits to use state-owned bottomlands based on considerations of potential effects on marine and fisheries resources, tidal wetlands, adjacent or nearby properties, anticipated public and private benefits, and water quality standards established by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The program is administered by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (Virginia Code §28.2-1200 to §28.2-1213).
- c. Wetlands Management - The purpose of the wetlands management program is to preserve wetlands, prevent their despoliation, and accommodate economic development in a manner consistent with wetlands preservation.
- (1) The tidal wetlands program is administered by VMRC (Virginia Code §28.2-1301 through §28.2-1320).
- (2) The Virginia Water Protection Permit program administered by DEQ includes protection of wetlands - both tidal and non-tidal - (Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:5) and Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

- d. Dunes Management - Dune protection is carried out pursuant to The Coastal Primary Sand Dune Protection Act and is intended to prevent destruction or alteration of primary dunes. This program is administered by VMRC (Virginia Code §28.2-1400 through §28.2-1420).
- e. Non-point Source Pollution Control - (1) Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control Law requires soil-disturbing projects to be designed to reduce soil erosion and to decrease inputs of chemical nutrients and sediments to the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, and other rivers and waters of the Commonwealth. This program is administered by DEQ (Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:51 *et seq.*).

(2) Coastal Lands Management is a state-local cooperative program administered by DEQ's Water Division and 84 localities in Tidewater (see i) Virginia (Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:67 – 62.1-44.15:79 and Virginia Administrative Code 9 VAC 25-830-10 *et seq.*).
- f. Point Source Pollution Control - The point source program is administered by the State Water Control Board (DEQ) pursuant to Virginia Code §62.1-44.15. Point source pollution control is accomplished through the implementation of:
 - (1) The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program established pursuant to Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act and administered in Virginia as the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit program.
 - (2) The Virginia Water Protection Permit (VWPP) program administered by DEQ (Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:5) and Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.
- g. Shoreline Sanitation - The purpose of this program is to regulate the installation of septic tanks, set standards concerning soil types suitable for septic tanks, and specify minimum distances that tanks must be placed away from streams, rivers, and other waters of the Commonwealth. This program is administered by the Department of Health (VDH) (Virginia Code §32.1-164 through §32.1-165).
- h. Air Pollution Control - The program implements the federal Clean Air Act to provide a legally enforceable State Implementation Plan for the attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. This program is administered by the State Air Pollution Control Board (DEQ) (Virginia Code §10-1.1300 through §10.1-1320).
- i. Coastal Lands Management - A state-local cooperative program administered by DEQ's Water Division and 84 localities in Tidewater, Virginia established pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:67 – 62.1-44.15:79) and Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations (Virginia Administrative Code 9 VAC 25-830-10 *et seq.*).



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Attachment 2

Advisory Policies for Geographic Areas of Particular Concern

- a. Coastal Natural Resource Areas - These areas are vital to estuarine and marine ecosystems and/or are of great importance to areas immediately inland of the shoreline. Such areas receive special attention from the Commonwealth because of their conservation, recreational, ecological, and aesthetic values. These areas are worthy of special consideration in any planning or resources management process and include the following resources:
 - a) Wetlands
 - b) Aquatic Spawning, Nursery, and Feeding Grounds
 - c) Coastal Primary Sand Dunes
 - d) Barrier Islands
 - e) Significant Wildlife Habitat Areas
 - f) Public Recreation Areas
 - g) Sand and Gravel Resources
 - h) Underwater Historic Sites.
- b. Coastal Natural Hazard Areas - This policy covers areas vulnerable to continuing and severe erosion and areas susceptible to potential damage from wind, tidal, and storm related events including flooding. New buildings and other structures should be designed and sited to minimize the potential for property damage due to storms or shoreline erosion. The areas of concern are as follows:
 - i) Highly Erodible Areas
 - ii) Coastal High Hazard Areas, including flood plains.
- c. Waterfront Development Areas - These areas are vital to the Commonwealth because of the limited number of areas suitable for waterfront activities. The areas of concern are as follows:
 - i) Commercial Ports
 - ii) Commercial Fishing Piers
 - iii) Community Waterfronts

Although the management of such areas is the responsibility of local government and some regional authorities, designation of these areas as Waterfront Development Areas of Particular Concern (APC) under the VCP is encouraged.

Designation will allow the use of federal CZMA funds to be used to assist planning for such areas and the implementation of such plans. The VCP recognizes two broad classes of priority uses for waterfront development APC:

- i) water access dependent activities;
- ii) activities significantly enhanced by the waterfront location and complementary to other existing and/or planned activities in a given waterfront area.

Advisory Policies for Shorefront Access Planning and Protection

- a. Virginia Public Beaches - Approximately 25 miles of public beaches are located in the cities, counties, and towns of Virginia exclusive of public beaches on state and federal land. These public shoreline areas will be maintained to allow public access to recreational resources.
- b. Virginia Outdoors Plan - Planning for coastal access is provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in cooperation with other state and local government agencies. The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP), which is published by the Department, identifies recreational facilities in the Commonwealth that provide recreational access. The VOP also serves to identify future needs of the Commonwealth in relation to the provision of recreational opportunities and shoreline access. Prior to initiating any project, consideration should be given to the proximity of the project site to recreational resources identified in the VOP.
- c. Parks, Natural Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas - Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, and Natural Areas are provided for the recreational pleasure of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation by local, state, and federal agencies. The recreational values of these areas should be protected and maintained.
- d. Waterfront Recreational Land Acquisition - It is the policy of the Commonwealth to protect areas, properties, lands, or any estate or interest therein, of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historical interest, or unusual features which may be acquired, preserved, and maintained for the citizens of the Commonwealth.
- e. Waterfront Recreational Facilities - This policy applies to the provision of boat ramps, public landings, and bridges which provide water access to the citizens of the Commonwealth. These facilities shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to provide points of water access when and where practicable.
- f. Waterfront Historic Properties - The Commonwealth has a long history of settlement and development, and much of that history has involved both shorelines and near-shore areas. The protection and preservation of historic shorefront properties is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Historic Resources. Buildings, structures, and sites of historical, architectural, and/or archaeological interest are significant resources for the citizens of the Commonwealth. It is the policy of the Commonwealth and the VCP to enhance the protection of buildings, structures, and sites of historical, architectural, and archaeological significance from damage or destruction when practicable.

[Federal Register Volume 80, Number 44 (Friday, March 6, 2015)]

[Notices]

[Pages 12163-12166]

From the Federal Register Online via the Government Printing Office [www.gpo.gov]

[FR Doc No: 2015-05248]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. PF15-5-000; PF15-6-000]

Dominion Transmission, Inc., Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Planned Supply Header Project and Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Supply Header Project (SHP) involving construction and operation of facilities by Dominion Transmission, Inc. (Dominion) in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project (ACP Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (Atlantic) in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. The environmental impacts of both projects will be considered in one EIS, which will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the projects are in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the projects. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EIS. Please note that the scoping period will close on April 28, 2015.

You may submit comments in written form or verbally. Further details on how to submit written comments are in the Public Participation section of this notice. If you sent comments on the SHP or ACP Projects to the Commission before the opening of the dockets on October 31, 2014, you will need to file those comments under Docket No. PF15-5-000 or PF15-6-000 to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding. In lieu of or in addition to sending written comments, the Commission invites you to attend any of the public scoping meetings scheduled as follows:

Date and time Location

Monday, March 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Pine Forest High School, 525 Andrews Road, Fayetteville, NC 28311.
Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Forest Hills Middle School, 1210 Forest Hills Road, Wilson, NC 27896.
Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 7:00 p.m. William R. Davie Middle School, 4391 Hwy. 158, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870.

Thursday, March 12, 2015, 7:00 p.m.	Jolliff Middle School, 1021 Jolliff Road, Chesapeake, VA 23331.
Monday, March 16, 2015, 7:00 p.m.	Dinwiddie Middle School, 11608 Courthouse Road, Dinwiddie, VA 23841.
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 7:00 p.m.	Prince Edward County High School Auditorium, 1482 Zion Hill Road, Farmville, VA 23901.
Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 7:00 p.m.	Nelson County Middle School, 6925 Thomas Nelson Highway, Lovingston, VA 22949.
Thursday, March 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m.	Stuarts Draft High School, 1028 Augusta Farms Road, Stuarts Draft, VA 24477.
Monday, March 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m.	Elkins High School, 100 Kennedy Drive, Elkins, WV 26241.
Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 7:00 p.m.	Bridgeport High School, 515 Johnson Avenue, Bridgeport, WV 26330.

The purpose of these scoping meetings is to provide an opportunity to verbally comment on the projects. If a significant number of people are interested in commenting at the meetings, we \1\ may establish a 3- to 5-minute time limit for each commentor to ensure that all people wishing to comment have the opportunity in the time allotted for the meeting. If time limits on comments are implemented, they will be strictly enforced. A transcript of each meeting will be added to the Commission's administrative record to ensure that your comments are accurately recorded.

\1\ ``We,' ' ``us,' ' and ``our' ' refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for these projects. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of these

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planned projects and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the planned facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the Commission approves the projects, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings where compensation would be determined in accordance with state law.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled ``An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?' ' is available for viewing on the FERC Web site (www.ferc.gov). This fact sheet addresses a number of typically asked questions, including the use of eminent

domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings.

Summary of the Planned Projects

The SHP would involve the construction and operation of approximately 38.7 miles of pipeline loop \2\ and the modification of existing compression facilities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The pipeline facilities associated with the SHP would be comprised of two main components: (1) Approximately 3.8 miles of 30-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline loop adjacent to Dominion's existing LN-25 pipeline in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania; and (2) approximately 34.9 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline loop adjacent to Dominion's existing TL-360 pipeline in Harrison, Doddridge, Tyler, and Wetzel Counties, West Virginia.

\2\ A pipeline ``loop'' is a segment of pipe constructed parallel to an existing pipeline to increase capacity.

In addition to the planned pipelines, Dominion plans to modify four existing compressor stations in Westmoreland and Green Counties, Pennsylvania and Marshall and Wetzel Counties, West Virginia. Dominion would install new gas-fired turbines that would provide for a combined increase of 75,700 horsepower of compression. Dominion would also install new valves, pig launcher/receiver sites, \3\ and associated appurtenances at these existing compressor station locations.

\3\ A ``pig'' is a tool that the pipeline company inserts into and pushes through the pipeline for cleaning the pipeline, conducting internal inspections, or other purposes.

The ACP Project would involve the construction and operation of 554 miles of variable diameter natural gas pipeline in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. The pipeline facilities associated with the ACP Project would be comprised of four main components as follows:

Approximately 295.6 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Harrison, Lewis, Upshur, Randolph, and Pocahontas Counties, West Virginia; Highland, Augusta, Nelson, Buckingham, Cumberland, Prince Edward, Nottoway, Dinwiddie, Brunswick, and Greenville Counties, Virginia; and Northampton County, North Carolina;

approximately 179.9 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline in Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland, and Robeson Counties, North Carolina;

approximately 75.7 miles of 20-inch-diameter lateral pipeline in Northampton County, North Carolina; and Greenville, Southampton, Suffolk, and Chesapeake Counties, Virginia; and

approximately 3.1 miles of 16-inch-diameter natural gas lateral pipeline in Brunswick County, Virginia.

In addition to the planned pipelines, Atlantic plans to construct and operate three new compressor stations totaling 108,275 horsepower of compression. These compressor stations would be located in Lewis County, West Virginia; Buckingham County, Virginia; and Northampton County, North Carolina. Atlantic would also install metering stations, valves, pig launcher/receiver sites, and associated appurtenances along the planned pipeline system.

The SHP and ACP Projects would be capable of delivering 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day to seven planned distribution points

in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. If approved, construction of the projects is proposed to begin in September 2016. The general location of the projects' facilities and a number of alternatives under consideration are shown in the maps in appendix 1.\4\

\4\ The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the Federal Register. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at www.ferc.gov using the link called ``eLibrary'' or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the planned facilities would disturb about 12,972 acres of land for the pipeline and aboveground facilities. The typical construction right-of-way for pipeline facilities would vary between 125 feet wide for the 42-inch-diameter pipeline and 75 feet wide for the 16-inch-diameter lateral pipeline, with additional workspace needed in some locations due to site-specific conditions. Following construction, approximately 4,370 acres of land would be retained for permanent operation of the facilities. Land affected by construction but not required for operation would generally be allowed to revert to former uses.

The EIS Process

The FERC will be the lead federal agency for the preparation of the EIS. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is participating as a cooperating agency because the ACP Project would cross the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests in West Virginia and Virginia. As a cooperating agency, the USFS intends to adopt the EIS per Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1506.3 to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regarding Atlantic's planned application for a Right-of-Way Grant and Temporary Use Permit for crossing federally administered lands. The USFS additionally will assess how the planned pipeline conforms to the direction contained in the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests' Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP). Changes in the LRMP could be required if the pipeline is authorized across the National Forests. The EIS will provide the documentation to support any needed amendments to the LRMPs.

NEPA requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as scoping. The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EIS on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EIS. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EIS.

In the EIS we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the planned projects under these general headings:

- Geology and soils;
- land use;

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water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
cultural resources;
vegetation and wildlife;
air quality and noise;
endangered and threatened species;
socioeconomics; and
public safety.

We will present our recommendations in the EIS on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas, as applicable.

Dominion and Atlantic are evaluating several route alternatives that were developed through the company's route selection and constraint analysis processes or identified by stakeholders during public outreach efforts. Major route alternatives that have been identified by Dominion and Atlantic are presented in appendix 1. More detailed maps of these, and other, potential alternative routes can be found on the FERC Web site at www.ferc.gov, or Dominion's Web site at <https://www.dom.com/corporate/what-we-do/natural-gas/atlantic-coast-pipeline>. Part of alternatives to the planned projects or portions of the projects. Thus, as part of our scoping process, we are specifically soliciting comments on the range of alternatives for both of the projects.

Although no formal application has been filed, we have already initiated our NEPA review under the Commission's pre-filing process. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to encourage early involvement of interested stakeholders and to identify and resolve issues before the FERC receives an application. As part of our pre-filing review, we have begun to contact some federal and state agencies to discuss their involvement in the scoping process and the preparation of the EIS.

The EIS will present our independent analysis of the issues. We will publish and distribute the draft EIS for public comment. After the comment period, we will consider all timely comments and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section beginning on page 8.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues related to these projects to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EIS. Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice. As discussed above, the USFS has expressed its intention to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS to satisfy its NEPA responsibilities related to these projects. In addition to the USFS, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have also agreed to participate as cooperating agencies.

\\5\ The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Offices, and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the projects' potential effects on historic properties.\6\ We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPOs as the projects develop. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EIS for these projects will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under Section 106.

\6\ The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the planned facilities and the environmental information provided by Dominion and Atlantic. This preliminary list of issues may change based on your comments and our analysis.

- Land use impacts, including the exercise of eminent domain and future land use restrictions;

- impacts on property values, tourism, and recreational resources;

- safety issues, such as construction and operation of the planned facilities near existing residences, schools, businesses, and military training facilities, and in karst and steep slope terrain;

- alternatives, including routing within existing linear corridors, avoiding private property, National Forests, National Parkway lands, National Wildlife Refuge land, and other sensitive environmental features;

- impacts on local emergency management systems;

- impacts on forested areas and other vegetation;

- impacts on surface water resources including springs, seeps, and wetlands;

- impacts on groundwater resources and wells;

- impacts on protected species and habitat;

- impacts on cultural resources including battlefields, cemeteries, and historic properties; and

- concerns regarding construction and operational noise, especially related to compressor stations.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the projects. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your

comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before April 28, 2015.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances, please reference the appropriate project docket number(s) (PF15-5-000 for the SHP and PF15-6-000 for the ACP Project) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature located on the Commission's Web site (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. This is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically using the eFiling feature located on the Commission's Web site (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings. With eFiling,

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you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on ``eRegister.'' You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select ``Comment on a Filing;' ' or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.

Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, as well as anyone who submits comments on the projects. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the planned projects.

Copies of the completed draft EIS will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 2).

Becoming an Intervenor

Once Dominion and Atlantic file applications with the Commission, you may want to become an ``intervenor,' ' which is an official party to the Commission's proceeding. Intervenor play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission's final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are in the User's Guide under the ``e-filing' ' link on the Commission's Web

site. Please note that the Commission will not accept requests for intervenor status at this time. You must wait until the Commission receives formal applications for the projects.

Additional Information

Additional information about the projects is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC Web site (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search," and enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., PF15-5 or PF15-6). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription that allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx along with

Dated: February 27, 2015.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

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